

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 30, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The 49th Legislature 2nd Regular Session adjourned sine die last night at 11:07 p.m.

During the last week of the session, 430 floor actions occurred. While none of those actions included bills on the Council's tracking list, the following bills from that list did pass and were signed by the Governor during this session:

HB2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation

HB2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation

HB2029: Department of Health Services; Continuation

HB2242: Reverse Mortgages; Regulations

HB 2425: Vulnerable Adults; Attorney Fees

HB 2426: Adult Guardianship & Protective Proceedings

HB 2469: Certified Medication Assistants

Note: Summaries of these bills can be found through the **FULL LIST** link provided in this news letter.

Some of what passed and was sent to the Secretary of State:

SCR 1013: Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of State

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/s.scr1013jud_housechangesmemo.doc.htm

SCM 1002: Health Care Reform

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.scm1002_04-23-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HCM 2005: Sec. 1011 Reimbursement; Reauthorized

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.hcm2005_04-29-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HCR 2018: Initiatives; Filing Deadline

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.hcr2018_04-29-10_astransmittedtosecretaryofstate.doc.htm

Today, the Governor signed HB 2162: Immigration; Border Security. Her statement is provided here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_043010_StatementGovBrewer.pdf

Other bills that *may* be of interest with fact sheet summaries from the Arizona State Legislatures website:

SB 1043: Health Care; Programs;

Coverage <http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/s.1043housechangememo.doc.htm>

SB 1232: Civil Rights; Discrimination:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/s.1232gov_strikermemo.doc.htm

SB 1419: Dentists; Dental Hygienists:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.sb1419_04-20-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2209: Public Meeting; Notices:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.hb2209_04-20-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2348: Veterans; Disability Benefits:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/summary/h.hb2348_04-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) *April 2010 Tracking Arizona's Recovery* report is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>

JLBC Ballot *Fiscal Impact Summary* statement regarding Proposition 100 can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/10mayprop100sum.pdf>

Here are the final numbers for the session *at this time*: Total days of the session = 109, 1,232 bills posted, 169 memorials or resolutions posted, 352 bills passed, 209 signed to date, 5 vetoed to date and 33 memorials/resolutions passed.

Since the Legislature is out of session, the Governor has ten (10) days to sign, veto, or choose not to sign bills and allow them to become law.

To view the legislation tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the 2nd Regular Session, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It does mean that the bill topic was something that may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council tracked the bill's progress.

If you have a particular perspective to share *at any time*, you can voice your opinions to:

The **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331** or toll-free at **800-253-0883**

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S. 1963

Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009

Introduced on 10/28/2009 by Senator Daniel K. Akaka (HI), the bill has seven cosponsors: Senator Mark Begich (AK), Senator Richard Burr (NC), Christopher J. Dodd (CT), Senator Byron L. Dorgan (ND), Senator James M. Inhofe (OK), Senator Tim Johnson (SD), and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH).

S. 1963 includes:

Caregiver Support

Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive charges for care provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in emergency cases to attendants accompanying veterans severely injured while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, while such veterans are receiving VA care for such injuries.

Directs the Secretary, as part of authorized VA home health services for veterans, to furnish family caregiver assistance to family members of veterans in need of

personal care services due to a serious injury incurred or aggravated during active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Requires the Secretary to:

- (1) evaluate the services needed by each veteran
- (2) provide training and approval to the caregivers
- (3) designate a primary personal care attendant for each eligible veteran
- (4) provide ongoing family caregiver assistance to such family members
- (5) provide respite care for the veteran, in appropriate cases
- (6) pay monthly caregiver stipends
- (7) conduct oversight of the caregiver assistance program, including visits to each eligible veteran at least every six months; and
- (8) provide program outreach

Directs the Secretary to: (1) submit to the congressional veterans committees a plan for program implementation; (2) report annually to such committees evaluating the program; and (3) submit a one-time report on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the program to cover veterans who have a serious injury incurred or aggravated before September 11, 2001.

Directs the Secretary to reimburse attendants for travel expenses, including lodging and subsistence, in connection with authorized VA treatment for veterans.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) conduct a national survey of family caregivers of seriously disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces to better understand the size and characteristics of their population and the types of care they provide; and (2) report survey results to Congress.

Other provisions of the bill include:

Women Veterans Health Care
Rural Health Improvement
Mental Health Care
Other Health Care
Department Personnel
Homeless Veterans
Nonprofit Research and Education Corporations
Construction and Naming Matters

On 4/27/2010, S. 1963 was presented to the President.

If you want more information specific to this or any federal legislation, go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number or description under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

From the Kaiser Family Foundation

Latest tracking poll results on health care reform

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8067.cfm>

May is Older Americans Month and the Administration on Aging has posted a variety of resources to help celebrate the month. A link is provided here:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

Governor Brewer has issued a proclamation recognizing older adults in Arizona as among our most treasured resources. The Governor's Office on Aging and the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging invite you to join in the celebration and recognition of older Arizonans and offer this link to the proclamation:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010Proc.pdf>

From the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices (NGA Center)

Maximizing the Potential of Older Adults: Benefits to State Economies and Individual Well-Being recognizes many aspects of Arizona's Mature Workforce Initiative and work being done through the Mature Workforce Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging as well as the Council's partners. The brief is linked here:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1004OLDERADULTS.PDF>

Information & Resources:

WHAT: ASIST Workshop/Applied Suicide intervention Skills Training

WHEN: May 18 and 19, 2010, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Area Agency on Aging, Region One, 1366 East Thomas Road, Suite 108, Phoenix AZ

For more information, including registration information, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010ASISTFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Projects, Diversion and Useful Advice Presentation on memory-loss, slowing progression and improving life for those living with dementia or Alzheimer's

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2010; 2 to 4 pm, University of Arizona, South Campus, Groth Hall, 1140 N. Colombo Drive, Sierra Vista AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CaregiverWorkshopJytteLokvigSVUseful.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Military Women's Conference

WHEN: May 21 and 22, 2010; Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix AZ

Registration and other information available at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010AdvisoryWomenConf.pdf> or <http://www.azdvs.gov/>. **Deadline to register is May 1, 2010**

The Governor's Office on Aging is pleased to be a Co-Sponsor of *new afternoon community sessions* at the **Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium 2010 Annual Conference**. The afternoon sessions will include a presentation by Dr. David Coon on Enhancing Well-being for Care Partners, a Resource Panel providing information on how best to access resources, legal and financial planning, long-term care housing options and support services. The afternoon will conclude with an Alzheimer's Priority Forum offering all participants the opportunity to provide direct input and feedback.

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2010, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

It isn't too late to register for this free event!

Register online at <http://www.azalz.org/> or call 480-440-7177

WHAT: 2010 Hard of Hearing Training for Professionals

WHEN: Thursday, May 27, 2010; 8 am to 5 pm, Bio5 Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson

Note: Final registration deadline is May 7, 2010. For more information:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HOHTrainingRegistrationForm4.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Now that the 2nd Regular Session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus.

Thank you!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging